

Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chair
Sen. Rose Antich
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Ellen Clippinger
Cheryl A. Seelig
Sven Schumacher
Kimberly Tracy Armstrong
Donald Amos
Nathan Samuel
Marsha Hearn-Lindsey
Barb Schuck
Carol Johnson
Sharon Pierce
James Hmurovich
Mara Snyder
Judith A. Ganser, M.D., M.P.H.



BOARD FOR THE COORDINATION OF CHILD CARE REGULATION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: July 25, 2000
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Connie Lawson, Chair; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Ellen Clippinger; Sven Schumacher; Donald Amos; Marsha Hearn-Lindsey; Carol Johnson; James Hmurovich; Judith A. Ganser, M.D. M.P.H.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Antich; Cheryl A. Seelig; Kimberly Tracy Armstrong; Nathan Samuel; Barb Schuck; Sharon Pierce; Mara Snyder.

I. Call to Order

Senator Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and asked Board members and LSA staff to introduce themselves. The Chair then asked if Board members had any comments before the beginning of testimony. There being no comments at this time, the Chair introduced the first witness.

II. Expert Testimony

Ms. Courtney Tobin, Executive Director, Indiana Development Finance Authority (IDFA) was not available for testimony. However, the Chair asked LSA staff to distribute the following material provided by Ms. Tobin beforehand:

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

- A memorandum regarding the changes made by P.L. 227-1999 concerning the Capital Access Program and IDFA's authorization to issue bonds (Exhibit #1).
- A booklet prepared by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to assist child care providers through licensing and early financing (Exhibit #2).

The Chair indicated that Ms. Tobin would be available at the next meeting to answer any questions, and that the Board would have an opportunity to discuss the contents of each handout.

Ms. Amy Brown, Legislative Liaison, FSSA, Division of Family and Children was introduced by the Chair as a replacement for Ms. Lauren Polite. Ms. Brown gave a brief overview of child care in Indiana by testifying to the following:

Funding

- Total child care expenditures for Federal FY 1999 reached \$165 M.
- The above expenditures are primarily funded through three sources: 1) the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant (CCDF); 2) Indiana's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF); and 3) the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).
- TANF monies totaling \$39.7 M have been made available to Indiana families in need of child care.

Waiting Lists

- Last year at this time, approximately 10,800 individuals were on a waiting list for child care vouchers funded through CCDF.
- The \$39.7 M in TANF monies made available to Indiana families has eliminated the waiting list problem.
- FSSA is nonetheless monitoring child care voucher conditions on a quarterly basis.

Professional Development

- Last year, a total of 416 scholarships have been awarded to child care professionals through the "Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Early Childhood Program" (TEACH) to help defray the cost of earning degrees in childhood development.

Family Needs

- Preliminary requirements of FSSA's Child Care Needs Assessment have been completed and study findings will be available in early 2001.

Minimum Standards

- A minimum standards survey has been completed by FSSA regarding child care providers who accept vouchers. Summary results are currently available.

Class I Child Care Homes

- Voucher guidelines do not allow a compromise for parents with school age children regarding the switching of child care providers in light of EHB 1374-1996.
- Voucher parents are allowed to change child care providers only three times while receiving vouchers but are compelled to do so more often as a result of EHB 1374-1996.

Ms. Brown submitted a handout (Exhibit #3) which describes her testimony more fully and also provides additional information regarding the following items: 1) number of licensed child care providers from FY 1988 to FY 2000; 2) the increase in licensed child care capacity from FY 1990 to FY 2000; 3) total child care expenditures from Federal FY 1996 to Federal FY 1999; 4) preliminary requirements of FSSA's Child Care Needs Assessment; and 5) summary results of FSSA's Minimum Standards Survey.

Ms. Ann Brooks, Vice-President, Providers' Link Association gave a brief overview of the Providers' Link Association and distributed a handout reflecting member, contact and meeting information (Exhibit #4). Ms. Brooks testified to the following:

EHB 1374-1996

- EHB 1374-1996 has had a great impact on providers and on the families that are in their care.
 - It allows certain children to be enrolled in licensed child care homes for 285 days a year but forces families to find alternative summer care for those children during the remaining 80 days of the year.
 - It limits a parent's choice for child care.
- EHB 1374-1996 should be modified to allow a Class I-A license for providers who wish to keep additional children on a year-round basis.
 - Requirements for a Class I-A license would need to be established regarding: 1) space; 2) staff; 3) age-appropriate activities; and 4) professional development.

Research

- A recent survey by the National Institute of Out-of-School Time indicates that there are approximately 3.5 M Latchkey children between the ages of five and 12 who spend time alone after school.
- Children are most likely to be victims of violent crime committed between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.
- Children who attend regular programs have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, and conflict resolution skills.
- School age care is the fastest growing segment in the industry today.
- Alternative summer programs that are unregulated break the continuity of child care.

III. Committee Questions

Class II Child Care Homes

Representative Budak commented that it is no longer possible to run a Class II child care home in Indiana, and asked for clarification regarding this matter. Anita Smith of FSSA stated that applications to run such homes have not been accepted since 1996, and that any Class II home established during this time has been grandfathered into current statute. Ms. Smith then explained that one of the differences between a Class I and a Class II home relates specifically to capacity (i.e., Class I capacity is 12 children and Class II capacity is 16 children).

Minimum Standards

Representative Crawford commented on the summary results data regarding FSSA's Minimum Standards Survey contained in Exhibit #3. He stated that out of the 92 counties surveyed, 68

have adopted minimum standards for child care providers who accept vouchers. He added that of the 24 counties that have not adopted such standards, 15 are still considering them while 9 are not. Representative Crawford asked if the adoption of such standards is voluntary, and what occurs if standards are not adopted.

Ms. Brown responded that the adoption of the standards are voluntary but encouraged for Step Ahead councils. Representative Budak added that if a child care home has any children receiving vouchers, minimum standards should be required.

In response to a question on compliance posed by Kathryn Azar of Infant Day Care Inc., Ms. Brown referred the Board to FSSA's Minimum Standards Survey (contained in Exhibit #3) which states that voucher agents are mostly responsible for the verification of adopted standards. Ms. Brown then added that the Step Ahead Council has the authority to decide whether or not to adopt minimum standards. General discussion surrounding the need for funding to implement minimum standards took place before moving to the next topic.

TEACH

The Chair commented on the TEACH Program and asked that Janet Deahl of FSSA gather information for the August meeting regarding the successes of the program, and on how child care professionals are recruited/encouraged to pursue further study. Ms. Deahl stated that TEACH is administered by an outside contractor, and that she would notify the administrator for an update.

Needs Assessment

The Chair moved the topic of discussion towards FSSA's Child Care Needs Assessment that is currently being conducted by the *IU Center for Survey Research*, and commented on its importance (see Exhibit #3 for preliminary requirements). Representative Budak added that the State contracted with this entity last year, and that she is eager to see the findings. Ms. Brown indicated that the survey tool is currently being formulated, and reiterated that the study findings should be available in early 2001.

Child Care Expenditures

Representative Crawford then commented on the total child care expenditures section of FSSA's handout (Exhibit #3), and requested a complete breakdown of federal FY 1999 expenditures (\$165 M). Specifically, he indicated that he would like to see the breakdown by source (e.g., TANF, CCDF, and SSBG) while illustrating the manner of disbursement and restrictions. James Hmurovich stated that he would provide such a report broken out by geographic location, number of children served, and restrictions for the August meeting.

Child Care Playground Safety

The discussion then turned to child care facility playground equipment standards. Representative Budak explained that her constituents have contacted her regarding problems of playground equipment not being standardized. She then made reference to a recent federal report by the *US Consumer Product Safety Commission* which establishes suggested guidelines for public playground safety.

James Hmurovich responded that the State already has playground equipment standards set, and that a need exists to ensure their consistent application. Representative Budak offered that she would be prepared to introduce legislation next session regarding this topic.

Carol Johnson added that although the safety of children is paramount, certain expenses may not be necessary with regards to the federal report in question. She indicated that additional monies from the State would help day care facilities meet these guidelines if necessary. She explained that her center has been accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* but is not in compliance with the guidelines contained in the federal report.

Representative Budak responded that if a child care facility is licensed and has had no accidents, then maybe the report guidelines are unnecessary to implement. The Chair then added that certain child care facilities have communicated to her that they have been required to meet these guidelines within one year, and if not, will lose their licences.

After further discussion of this matter by Carol Johnson and Anita Smith, Representative Crawford expressed the need for a report clarifying who in Indiana is required to actually meet the federal guidelines.

James Hmurovich offered that he would prepare such a report for August's meeting, and that he would take the Board through the whole process with regards to playground equipment safety compliance. He indicated that he will make the report available early on, and will be prepared to answer questions at the actual meeting after Board members have reviewed the information.

Class I Child Care Homes

Moving the topic of discussion towards child care voucher guidelines and Class I child care homes, the Chair asked James Hmurovich to address the issue of parents with school age children being compelled to switch child care providers in light of EHB 1374-1996. She stated that parents should not be forced to use up their allotment of moves so quickly by having to move their children from a current provider, to a summer one, and then back again. Ms. Brooks agreed and stated that such a practice can be harmful to children.

Ellen Clippinger added that often a problem exists with Class I child care homes including more children than the required 12. She states that this occurs when owner's are allowed to count their own children/relatives (above the age of seven) in the population that they serve. Carol Johnson confirmed this, and stated that one could serve up to twenty children in a Class I child care home depending upon existing circumstances.

Ms. Brooks responded that she would like to see some sort of a licensing remedy with regards to the overcrowding of child care homes, as well as a move towards more stringent requirements for age appropriate activities and substantive training for providers. She stated that such a move would allow home daycare to be recognized as a quality endeavor.

James Hmurovich suggested that this issue be put back on the agenda for the September meeting and that the Board complete its debate at that time with a child development specialist present. Representative Crawford added that if the Board is serious about pursuing more stringent requirements for home day care, it should prepare a written cost estimate to facilitate any legislation that is drafted. The Chair then stated that she would like James Hmurovich to work on such an estimate with the *Providers' Link Association*.

Immunization

Representative Budak moved the discussion towards immunization requirements for child care. She stated that she plans to introduce legislation next year regarding this topic. Janet Deahl responded that federal regulations exist regarding immunization requirements for voucher

children through CCDF, and that any such child should be vaccinated appropriately. Ms. Deahl indicated that FSSA is developing a mechanism to ensure compliance, and that information regarding this topic will be forthcoming.

IV. Committee Discussion

After a brief discussion regarding prospective legislation originating from the Board last year, the Chair initiated discussion concerning last year's final recommendations. The Board decided to conduct further study on the following items: 1) licensure and regulation of school age child care programs; 2) child care provided for individuals coming off of welfare assistance but still receiving low wages; 3) after-school child care contracts to be in writing; and 4) the adoption of minimum standards for non-adopting step-ahead counties.

CAP Loan Program

Representative Crawford then asked that IDFA be contacted by LSA staff to explore the possibility of CAP Loan Program monies being used to fund playground equipment standardization improvements. The Chair stated that this topic could be discussed at the August meeting when Ms. Tobin addresses the Board.

Child Restraint

At this time, Sven Schumacher suggested that the Board address certain issues concerning child welfare and restraint in child care homes. The Chair directed Mr. Schumacher to work with Kathy Graham from *IARCCA, an Association of Children and Family Services* to produce a brief update for September's meeting.

Final Business

The Chair asked LSA staff to hand out the Board's legislative charge (Exhibit #5), and encouraged members to review it prior to the August meeting.

There being no further discussion, the Chair set the next three Board meetings for the following times (room numbers to be announced): August 28th at 10:00; September 25th at 10:00; and October 17th at 10:00.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.